

NOTES ON VARIATION IN A COLONY OF THE MEADOW BROWN

A note on breeding this insect may be of use. I put the caught female in a cylindrical netting cage about one and a half foot high by one foot in diameter. In this I stand a jar of thistles with a little grass. I always keep the cage as hot as possible, either by hanging it in a sheltered spot in the sun, or in a greenhouse when the sun is weak. The female will lay readily after a couple of days on the top of the cage. She pays no attention at all to the grass, which is extraordinary as I have seen *jurtina* laying on a carefully chosen bit of grass in the wild. The eggs are easily scraped off into a plastic box and hatch in about 10 days. I keep my larvae in plastic boxes with cut grass. In 1983 I put them in a plastic box with two sides of netting and they all desiccated before I realized. The adults pair readily in a shady spot. The species is strangely difficult to breed, as the larvae, if potted out, just disappear or, if boxed up, die of disease. Obviously they require conditions which are not easily simulated at home, although what these are I cannot say, because in nature the species occurs in such diverse habitats.

References

Ford, E. B., 1975 *Butterflies*, 368 pp., 72 pls (48 col.), 32 maps. London.

Lipsomb, G., 1980. A new form of *M. jurtina*. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 92:205.

HYPENA CRASSALIS F.: BEAUTIFUL SNOUT IN BEDFORDSHIRE. — On the 6th July 1984, *H. crassalis* was observed by myself and Mr. A. Riley to be locally common at Aspley Heath in Bedfordshire. We took several moths at dusk and later more came to M. V. Local man, Mr. J. Barnwell, has taken the moth here in previous years, but its presence in Bedfordshire has until now seemingly escaped being recorded. I note from the distribution map for this species in Volume 10 of M.B.G.B.1. that this site is quite a leap into the void shown around East Anglia. — K. F. WEBB, 2 Kingsdown Avenue, Luton, Beds LU2 7BU.

CELASTRINA ARGIOLUS L.: HOLLY BLUE OVIPOSITING ON HAWTHORN. — Upon visiting Hollingbury Castle Down above Moulsecoomb in East Sussex on 23.v.84 I observed a female Holly Blue investigating flower-sprays of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna* Jacq.). Here it was seen to oviposit three times before my presence disturbed it and one of these eggs I managed to locate on the sepal of a ripening bud. Judging from the few works at my disposal this foodplant is little known and so I consider it worth mentioning. *Pyracantha*, also a member of the *Rosaceae* has it seems been noted as having been visited by female *argiolus*. — D. A. PRANCE, 23 Brunswick Road, Kingston Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.